

## THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

## A NATIONAL DISGRACE

Only Saturday of last week the daily papers contained notice the brutal murder of a Texas negro, by an infuriated mob. The negro, who had committed a crime and deserved punishment, was literally riddled with bullets, his head was then smashed with a club, and finally the body was burned at the stake while the crowd stood by and witnessed the horrible spectacle of lawlessness and mob rule.

In no country on earth are more brutalizing crimes enacted than right here in our own United States.

The Memphis, Tennessee, Press gives an account of the burning of Henry Lowery at Nordena, Arkansas, on Jan. 27th, in the following language:

"More than 500 people stood by and looked on while the Negro was slowly burned to a crisp. A few women were among the crowd of Arkansas planters. Not once did the man beg for mercy, despite the fact that he suffered one of the most terrible deaths imaginable. With the Negro chained to a log, members of the mob placed a small pile of leaves around his feet. Gasoline was poured on the leaves and the carrying out of the death sentence was under way.

"Inch by inch the Negro was fairly cooked to death. Every few minutes fresh leaves were placed on the fire until the blaze was past the Negro's waist. Even after the flesh had dropped away from his legs and the flames were leading toward his face Lowery retained consciousness. Not once did he whimper or beg for mercy. Once or twice he attempted to pick up the hot ashes in his hand and thrust them into his mouth in order to hasten death. Each time the ashes were kicked out of his reach by members of the mob. As the flames were eating away his abdomen, a member of the mob stepped forward and saturated his body with gasoline. It was then only a few minutes until the Negro had been reduced to ashes. Words fail to describe the suffering of the Negro. Even after his legs had been reduced to bones he continued to talk with his captors."

Congressman Robison of Kentucky recently gathered some statistics which should make every law-abiding American citizen blush with shame at the utter lawlessness in some of our southern states. There have been 3,436 lynchings in the United States since 1889, a period of 32 years. This is an average of 104 per year or two every week in the year. The following table shows the outrageous record:

1889 to 1921			1889 to 1921		
	Men	Women		Men	Women
Georgia	429	6	Florida	201	2
Mississippi	405	12	Tennessee	199	1
Louisiana	326	4	Texas	354	6
Alabama	292	7	South Carolina	128	6
Arkansas	231	5			

The above states have a population of twenty-one million, but only 1,800,000 or less than nine per cent, voted at the last election, while twenty-nine per cent of the population of the North voted. In other words, the negroes, no matter how intelligent or how ignorant, are intimidated in these states and do not vote.

The five northern states of Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have a population of approximately twenty-one million and the vote at the last election was 6,187,000, yet the southern states named have eighty-four members of congress in the house and eighteen senators, while the northern states have eighty-one members of the house and ten senators. The average vote cast for each representative in these southern states is 21,000 and the average vote cast in the five northern states for each representative is 76,000.

Several of the senators from these southern states have been making a lot of noise about corrupt elections in Michigan, referring to the Newberry case, which stood the test of both Supreme Court trial and a Senate investigation and was fully vindicated.

Senator McKellar of Tennessee pointed with scorn to Michigan, yet in his state there have been 199 lynchings. Senator Caraway of Arkansas, made a great pretense of having his sensitive nerves shocked by the Michigan election. Yet it was in his state that Henry Lowery was burned and 230 other men and women murdered by lawless mobs.

Senators Pat Harrison and John Sharp Williams of Mississippi have expressed a good deal of "Righteous Indignation" over the Newberry election in Michigan, yet the state of Mississippi has lynched twelve women, more than any other state in the Union, beside 393 men, but Pat and John hold up their heads and blow just as hard as though they did not live in such a disgracefully lawless state.

Senator Hefflin of Alabama is another noisy bird, who apparently sets his mouth running and goes off and leaves it, yet his state has the unsavory record of 285 men and 7 women being the subjects of mob rule and criminal lawlessness.

The mouthy senators from these southern states will find plenty of work for all their brilliant talents in cleaning up the dirt of their own states without stopping to throw mud at fair Michigan whose skirts are clean.

## THE REASON WHY

A farmer can work ten hours a day on a piece of land and make a bare living. Another farmer can work eight hours a day on the same land and bank a good profit each year. There's a reason.

The successful man studies conditions, analyzes suggestions and makes improvements as rapidly as it is possible for him to do so. His returns are in proportion to the activity of his brain.

The other man is slow to change. He doesn't "take any stock in new fangled notions." What was good enough for his father is good enough for him. And that's all he gets.

When put to practical use brains become a valuable asset. When merely carried around in a skull they are little better than a burden.

Be of good cheer and you may soon be cheering.

## Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Up," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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## XXIV.

## VIEW OF THE EMPLOYEE

The obvious solution of the government's employment problem is the standardization and readjustment of salaries. To be scientific, such readjustment must rest upon a careful reclassification of the service. Conditions are very different now, both in regard to the functions of offices and the cost of living, from what they were when positions in the government service were first classified and salaries assigned to those positions.

It struck me that an interested party in this inquiry into how the government conducts its business was the employee himself. He ought to know from actual daily experience something about the mechanism of the national business and the relations between the working force and employer.

It was clearly impossible to talk to the more than 500,000 men and women who work for the government, but I learned that between 50,000 and 90,000 of them are banded together in an association called the National Federation of Federal Employees. It is a regular labor union, and is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It includes all classes of government workers, technical and scientific men, as well as clerks and unskilled workers.

I asked the president of this employees' union, Luther C. Steward, if he and his associates were authorized to speak for all their membership. He assured me that they were.

So I asked him to tell me about the conditions of government employment and how the business was carried on.

I am glad I did, for what he told me discloses not only facts, but a state of mind existing among the employees which necessarily must be taken into account in any consideration of the efficiency and management of our common business. Here then is what the employees, who speak through Mr. Steward, have to say, and the constructive program they present for the improvement of the service:

The civil service on its human side consists of about 500,000 men and women engaged in the operation of an antiquated patch-up machine. Because of the durability of its vital parts and the faith and ability of the mass of the operatives the machine still functions. But the parts are ill-fitted, and many of them are defective. The managers and superintendents of the establishment, being too often chosen for political reasons, are frequently inept, and the operating system is clumsy and disjointed.

The employees are recruited under a law which provides a test of qualifications, and probably nine-tenths of the rank and file have satisfactorily passed the entrance test. But the better positions, say from \$3,000 upward, are usually occupied by political appointees. Another considerable group of employees get their appointments by executive order, waiving civil-service tests of fitness.

The newcomer in the service, therefore, finds himself up against a minimum of opportunity for promotion, with the disheartening knowledge that the advancement which is earned by competence is all too likely to be given to the friend or political supporter of some congressman or executive who wishes to pay a political debt. And the employee is subject to dismissal at the will of the executive of his department, unless he can bring sufficient political influence to bear.

In other words, the civil-service law is not backed up by enforcing power in the Civil Service commission. It merely recruits the applicants for entrance. Thereafter the employee's fate is largely a matter of his own luck and negative passive merit. There is no system by which he may be fitted to the job, and no protection against dismissal, unless the employee himself can show that the reason is political or religious. "For the good of the service," as the law reads, covers every other charge which the executive official may bring. There is no court of appeal.

Such is the oppressive, incentiveless, vitiating atmosphere of the government service. It stifles initiative, frustrates ambitious and reduces the mass of employees to a more or less passive state, which is permeated by a sense of fear.

In such an atmosphere, naturally enough, the physical conditions of employment are far from what they should be, and the government loses efficiency, as does any other employer where the wage scale is inadequate and unstandardized, where sanitary conditions are bad and hours of work too long and irregular.

The wage scale is so low that the Civil Service commission has difficulty in securing properly qualified applicants, and throughout the service the turnover is high. Employees doing the same kind of work often receive widely different rates of pay; experienced workers often receive less than beginners, and virtually every kind of inequality and injustice exists.

Brought Down the House. "Samson had the right idea of advertising," writes R. B. W. "He took a couple of columns and soon had everything coming his way."—Boston Transcript.

## Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

(Copyright, 1920, by James Morgan.)

## JOHN TYLER

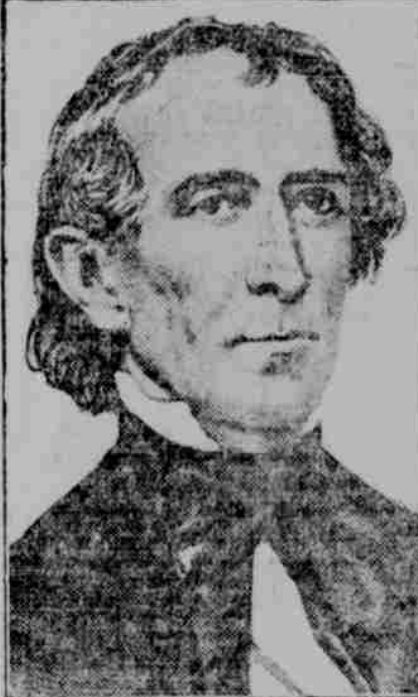
1790—March 29, John Tyler born in Charles City, Charles City county, Va.  
1827-36—United States senator.  
1840—Elected vice president.  
1841—April 6, became tenth president, aged 51.  
1845—March 3, signed joint resolution for annexation of Texas.  
1851—President of the peace convention in Washington. Elected to Confederate congress.  
1862—Jan. 17, died in Richmond, Va., aged 71.

GREATNESS and the presidency found John Tyler down on one knee, playing "knucks" with his boys in a pathway of his dooryard in Williamsburg, that stately old vice-regal village of colonial Virginia. He had not even heard that Harrison was ill, until destiny, without steam, wire or rail to carry it, sped to him from Washington by boat and buggy with the news that the president had been dead a day and that the empty presidential chair was awaiting the vice president.

Tyler belongs among the third or fourth-rate presidents. Although a clean-handed, kindly man of good presence and polished manners, he was a mediocre country lawyer and a narrow-minded politician, with a gift for getting offices that he had no gift for filling.

As John Tyler stepped into the White House, its door closed against the party which had elected him only five months before. Death had turned out the Whigs after 30 days of power and caused a political revolution.

Clay looked upon the accidental president as only a regent for the Harri-



John Tyler.

son administration and for the Whig party. Early in the extra session of congress, that impression of the senator from Kentucky was sharply corrected by a presidential veto of one of his own bills—a banking bill.

The Whigs were wild with rage; the Democrats filled with glee. The Democratic senators hastened in a body to the White House, where they were patting Tyler on the back while a Whig mob outside in the yard was making a vociferous, but futile protest. When the next veto came in Clay himself called the cabinet together and the members, with one exception, agreed to resign.

The exception was none other than that of the secretary of state, Daniel Webster. "Where am I to go?" the god-like Daniel thundered in his bewilderment. Some told him to go to one place, some to another. He held on for two years, until he had concluded the negotiation of the Ashburton treaty, which fixed the disputed boundary between Maine and Canada, and then he resigned.

Upon Webster's retirement, Tyler installed in the state department his mentor and idol, John C. Calhoun, and thus completed the overturn. The cabinet was now out and out Democratic and of the pro-slavery brand.

Texas had seceded from Mexico, which had abolished slavery, and its American settlers, who were facing the choice of slave labor or free labor, were anxious to be admitted to the Union. The slave holders of the southern states wanted to expand their power over the vast Texan empire as an offset to the rapid expansion of the free states in the great West. But northern sentiment was opposed.

At an opportune moment for the annexationists, the ubiquitous John Bull, with his omnipresent gunboat, appeared on the Texan scene as a mediator between Mexicans and Texans. His entry gave the slave interests the needed villain for the play, and the cry went up that we must annex Texas to keep the British from grabbing it.

Nevertheless the senate rejected overwhelmingly the treaty of annexation. Thereupon Tyler proposed to beat the devil around the stump, and Texas was annexed the last night of the administration by a simple joint resolution, rushed through the two houses of congress.

## Valuable Pair of Fish.

Two fish from the Amazon recently arrived in London, England, having winglike fins colored red and yellow and black stripes on the body. They are valued at \$100 the pair.

## Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

## President and Congress

President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$160,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$260,000 in all. (Subject to change.) Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.

Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass.; salary \$12,000. The 56 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 29 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,815 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 69 Rep., 31 Dem. U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, 21st Dem., H. Newberry.

Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Ford Rep. The Cabinet Arranged in order of presidential succession Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y., Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harri- M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denney Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$21,000.

The Supreme Court Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justices, salary \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif., (Rep.) Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. B. Davis, Ohio, (Rep.); Willis VanDewenter Wyo., (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn., (Dem.) Louis D. Brandeis, Maine, (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, (Dem.)

Michigan Government Governor, Alex. J. Gurnea, salary, \$5,000. Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$300.00. Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00. State Treasurer, Frank E. Gorham, salary, \$2,000.00. Auditor Gen., Ormel B. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Atty-Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,000.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank J. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amos, salary \$500.00. Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$300.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph H. Moore, Joseph H. Moore, Howard Weist, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Gov. M. Clark, John E. Bird Nelson Shary.

County Officers Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molnet, salary \$3,000.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kross, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, \$1,000.00; Clerk, Bertha Case, salary, \$1,000.00; Treasurer, Sidney Evey, salary \$1,000.00; P. M., Rosaline Clark, salary \$2,000.00; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, \$1,000.00; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,000.00; Circuit Court Com., Archibald, Wm. A. Bahlke, fees; Drain Com., Eva Laycock, salary \$1,000; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government Mayor, Chas. R. Marbury, salary, \$200.00. City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Eliza Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cressner, salary \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$500.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$300.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$200.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahlke, salary, \$1,200.00. Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary \$1,000.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas F. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert F. Cook, 4th ward Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$2.00 per day or actual time.

## CHATS WITH YOUR GAS MAN

It is difficult for a cook who is used to a coal range to realize the great intensity of gas range heat. When cooking on a gas range is once started it is almost impossible to use too little heat, but it is easy to use too much.

Almost all kinds of stewing and boiling should be done with the burner turned low; the results will be very much better. Rapid cooking will often spoil the food. The proper method is to start the boiling over a single burner with full flame, and then when the boiling point is reached, TURN THE FLAME VERY LOW, or transfer the saucepan to the simmering burner.

Some cooks light the giant burner for everything. This is wasteful and unnecessary. The simmering burner is an important aid to economy. It burns the smallest possible gas and can be used for a great deal of cooking and for keeping things warm.

GAS CO.

Mountain Out of Molehill. "To make a mountain out of a molehill," meaning to exaggerate, to magnify a danger or a situation unduly, has become a common phrase. But it is not taken from an old proverb or other popular sayings. The first to use it was the American writer, Henry Ellis (1777-1853). In his "Original Letters," The author is not very well known; his principal contribution to literature is almost forgotten.

Clean Leather Bags. Brown leather bags may be cleaned by rubbing on a thick lather of pure white soap. Apply it with a sponge, rub hard, let it remain on a few minutes, then wipe dry with flannel cloth and polish with vaseline; rub this in with bare hand; rub hard; don't use too much and wipe off well.

Whaleskin Valuable. Whaleskin is so thick that it can be split into several layers, such as stout as ox hide, and it is excellent for making boots, bags, harness or belting. The usefulness of the whale in this respect is not confined to his outer skin. The stomach furnishes a leather as soft and as strong as the best kid. Another important thing about the whale is that the whole of his skin is good. The skins of cows, horses and other land animals furnish a comparatively small quantity of leather, for only certain portions of the hide are of the right quality.

Genius and Eloquence. The secret of the rose's sweetness, of the bird's ecstasy, of the sunset's glory—that is the secret of genius and eloquence.—Wendell Phillips.

## RADIO

## Don't Be Behind the Times

Would you think of living without your daily paper or telephone?

RADIO brings the world's best talent into your living room. A hundred metropolitan newspapers speak to you daily.

We have complete receiving sets ready for immediate installation in your home, ranging in price from \$25 to \$250.

Hear the daily RADIO programs at our store. Don't forget the baseball scores are received each afternoon at five o'clock.

## Commercial Radiophone Company

In the basement at Robinson's

## Strand Theater

Sunday and Monday, June 4 and 5



Elsie Ferguson and Wallace Reid in the Paramount Picture "FOREVER" by A. George Fitzmaurice Productions

Thursday and Friday, June 8 and 9



## THOMAS MEIGHAN in "CAPPY RICKS"

On Thursday Night—The Biggest and Best Vaudeville Program we have had in months